



State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY

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ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

WATER QUALITY DIVISION

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February 1, 1994

Mr. Gary Gamble
Environmental Supervisor
Hecla Mining Company
Box C-8000
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho 83814-1931

RE: Well Logs, Consent Agreement Docket
No. UGW92-04

Dear Mr. Gary Gamble:

We received the well logs, completion records, drawdown data and the estimated flow rate for the aquifer beneath the Escalante tailings pond dated January 3, 1994. The enclosed data satisfies items number 3 and 5 of the Consent Agreement.

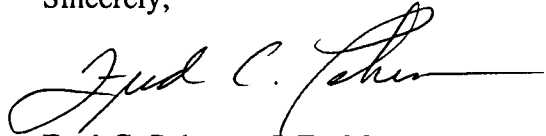
Hecla should have submitted a proposal for calculating the flow rate across the pond before proceeding with calculations as described in item Number 4 of the Consent Agreement. However, the calculated time values of 70 to 200 years in the report appear reasonable in view of some of the other data submitted. The well and geophysical logs indicate a low permeability for the underlying deposits; as did the drawdown and recovery test made of well MW-4. It would appear that the pond liner and the underlying low permeable deposits may be sufficient to protect the ground water resources. Further investigations would not likely alter this view, therefore we consider your submittal as satisfying item 4. Well monitoring is the remaining major task for Hecla.

Care should be taken in sampling the monitoring wells because of the large amount of cyanide in the area as described in our letter of November 16, 1993. Water quality data from well MW-2, a downgradient well, contains cyanide at the detection level and it is not obvious whether the cyanide is due to contaminated equipment, a spill or is leakage from the tailings pond. Because of this problem, we want to split samples with you, and will be contacting you in several months for a convenient time.

Mr. Gary Gamble
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Should you have any questions, please contact Mack Croft at 538-6146.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Fred C. Pehrson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Fred C. Pehrson, P.E., Manager
Permits, Compliance & Monitoring Branch

FCP:MC:gt/mhf

cc: Div. Oil, Gas & Mining
Wayne Thomas, District Engineer
SW District Health Dept.

P:WELLOGS.LTR
FILE:HECLA MINING